

## **Seduced 321**

### Chapter 321

He was so clean, so pure, and so pleasing to the eye.

Felix seemed to sense my gaze as he turned his head slightly. Upon seeing me, he gave me a faint smile. It was as if he were still the handsome young man from

back then.

The moment our eyes met, my heart stopped. I quickly turned and ran back into

the house.

The current Felix seemed to have too many different sides. His ever-changing nature added to the pressure on my mind. The thought that he might harm me became even stronger.

After lunch, I didn't feel like staying there any longer. Colin drove me back home

and went home himself.

Both my parents were taking a nap after lunch, leaving me with nothing to do but lay in bed and browse my phone.

Back when I was at Lincoln University, Queenie, Julia, and I formed a small group of three on WhatsApp. Whenever someone had something on their mind, they'd talk about it there. Discussing it together always felt better than keeping it to

ourselves.

And today, I found out about something from Colin that I needed to confirm in the group chat.

Little Blue Fish, "Question, did you guys know about Colin liking me before?"

Queenie replied almost immediately. The Queen, "Everyone on earth knew."

I was stunned. She even exaggerated it by saying everyone on earth knew. Was I the only clueless one?

Five Dots, "Don't tell me you didn't know."

Little Blue Fish, "...I really didn't know."

Actually, it wasn't entirely accurate to say that I didn't know. There were several times when I felt Colin was flirting with me regardless of me treating him like a brother. But before I could figure out what was going on, he would revert back to being serious. That gave me no chance to think about it.

More importantly, his image as a good brother was deeply ingrained in my mind back then, so I couldn't entertain any other thoughts. Even if there were some hints, I would convince myself that I was just overthinking things.

In other words, I had already developed feelings for Colin many years ago. With his tender care and extremely doting nature, he had already occupied a big part of my heart long ago. I just realized it a little late.

That was why I could naturally accept him as my boyfriend.

I used to think that all love stories were like this, but now I realized it was all planned out from the beginning. I had been fooled by him since birth and kept in the dark all along.

The outcome of this conversation was me being grilled by both of them. I was emotionally bruised and battered. I even felt like dying.

And that was not all as Queenie delivered the final flow.

The Queen, “You dense woman! No offense, but if Colin hadn’t made the first move, you might’ve stayed single till you had a head full of gray hair considering. your intelligence.”

Five Dots, “Don’t talk nonsense. She wouldn’t even know who to go after.”

Little Blue Fish,

How could they say that to me? Our friendship was ruined.

A call from Flynn ended the merciless teasing by the two. Queenie blushed and hurried off to entertain Flynn, leaving Julia and me behind. We both felt betrayed.

After putting down my phone and preparing to take a nap, Mom knocked on my door, asking me to help her prepare dinner.

She said since I would be returning to school soon, she would prepare some food. for me while she was not too busy these days. It would save me from constantly

craving, home-cooked meals once I got back to school.

We prepared the food while chatting. Both my parents were very open-minded, and our family was very democratic. Of course, I was also well-behaved. Except for the matter with Felix, I had never caused them any worries.

As we chatted, we talked about Aunt Mel. Mom put down the spatula she was using and looked out the window. Sighing, she said she never imagined that Aunt Mel would one day attack her own daughter with such malicious words.

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“When I was eight, Aunt Mel and her parents moved in next door to your grandma’s house. At that time, she was thin and small. She wore ill-fitting clothes and often sneaked a peek at me from the balcony.

“I’ve known her for over 40 years now, and I’ve been best friends with her for almost 30 years. She has really disappointed me. Lately, I’ve been feeling guilty for letting you be scolded by her in front of so many people.

“It was all because I was blind and mistook a bad person for a friend.”

Mom’s eyes reddened, so I quickly grabbed a tissue to wipe away her tears.

It was impossible not to blame Aunt Mel. After all, the things she said clearly showed that she couldn’t stand seeing Colin and me together. She was ready to break us apart.

But Mom had been friends with Aunt Mel for decades. They were like sisters. despite not being related by blood. Things had gotten to this point. Not only was Mom heartbroken and disappointed, but I was upset as well.

I wanted to comfort Mom, but after thinking for a while, I didn’t know what to say. I couldn’t understand their friendship. I was not Mom, so our perspectives. and emotions were different. I couldn’t feel the love Mom had for her.

“By the way, Mom, I went to Colin’s house today. Uncle Austin and Aunt Mel were

out, but Felix came home later.

“Mom, have you noticed anything strange about Felix? The way he looks at me makes me feel like I’m being stared at by a devil. It’s so scary.”

“Yeah, he came over for a while yesterday. He didn’t seem different at first, but when we talked about you and Colin, his expression immediately changed. How should I put it? It felt like there was a wolf lurking around. It was quite terrifying.”

“My feelings exactly, Mom. Do you think he wants to kill me?”

“I don’t think so, but I can’t say for sure what’s going on with him. Regardless, you have to be careful when you go back to school. Try to avoid him as much as

possible.

“He spent so much time with Lilac at school, so his old feedings might be stirred up again after going back. He might do something foolish because of it.

“Your dad and I won’t be around you, so you have to protect yourself and not let him hurt you.”

“I will, Mom,”

The flight back to school was scheduled for three days later. Zara and I discussed meeting up before leaving. We could bring someone before we started packing again..

Zara chose the restaurant. We were planning to go to a Spanish restaurant, but due to Jade’s boyfriend’s allergy, we switched to barbecue,

Since we agreed that we could bring someone with us, both Zara and Jade brought their boyfriends. I asked Colin if he would go with me.

Colin was six years older than me, so I thought he wouldn’t want to join our gathering. But he agreed immediately and said that he would be the best. companion so as to not embarrass me.

While video–chatting with him, he went to the kitchen for some water. Somehow, Felix appeared expressionlessly behind him in the background. He lifted his gaze to glance at the phone without saying a word.

That glance gave me goosebumps,

Colin was dressed formally on the day of the gathering. He was in a dark suit with a tie. His dark pants were wrapped around his long legs, and his black shoes were polished to a shine.

His already outstanding facial features had a few more traces of maturity. His deep eyes were like stars, full of tenderness.

We agreed to meet up/at six in the evening, but when we arrived a quarter before six, everyone was already there.

In the private room for eight people, Jade and Zara were each arm-in-arm with

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their boyfriends as they chatted away happily. They waved at me when they saw me. "We've been waiting for you. Why are you so slow?"

"Colin, let me introduce you. This is my boyfriend, Chris Moyer, and this is Jade's boyfriend, Drew Lewis. This is Lulu's boyfriend, Colin White."

The three men shook hands politely as they greeted each other formally.

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Zara didn't apply for postgraduate studies after finishing university but joined a company to work in her field of studies. It seemed that Chris was working in that company as well. Zara went there to be with her boyfriend.

She was quite proper in everything else, and she hardly ever talked about her boyfriend. She had mentioned Chris in passing, saying that they had a deep bond as she had fallen for him since childhood. He was the only one she wanted to

marry.

Chris wasn't tall but not short either, probably around five feet ten. He had a simple haircut and wore glasses with golden rims. They seemed to have thick lenses, indicating that it was a prescription. Chris appeared courteous but

somewhat aloof.

This was the first time I met him, but something seemed off.

A normal man would be warm and friendly when meeting the close friends of his girlfriend, but Chris gave off an indifferent vibe. It was as if he were detached from everything, as if there were an invisible barrier between us.

No matter how hard we tried, he couldn't seem to integrate into the group. It could be said that he didn't even try. His presence today was probably solely at

Zara's insistence.

I had met Drew a few times before. He was our senior in high school. I heard that he grew up together with Jade, so they were childhood sweethearts.

He was entirely opposite to Chris as he was very outgoing, tall, and cheerful. Drew was slightly tanned and would reveal a set of large white teeth when he smiled. He was constantly cooking something on the grill, barely eating himself. He served Jade generously.

Their interactions were sweet and affectionate.

This made Chris seem even colder. His attention was focused solely on grilling for himself and eating, as if he was here just for the barbecue. He showed no interest in interacting with Zara or the rest of us.

In contrast, Zara had whispered to him and served him several times. She took meticulous care of him.

"Am I not as good-looking?" Colin whispered in my ear as I stared at Chris. He looked slightly unhappy.

'No, Colin. You're the most handsome in the world,' I whispered back.

"Then why are you so focused on him? Aren't you worried that your classmate will get jealous?"

"Colin, don't you think that guy doesn't seem to like Zara very much?"

Colin lifted his eyes and casually glanced over at Zara and Chris. Then, he picked

the bacon he just grilled, dipped it in some sauce, and fed it to me.

up

I felt embarrassed.

Drew had only put food on Jade's plate, but Colin fed me directly!

"Why are you so concerned about others' business? Come, open your mouth. Be careful not to burn yourself."

I opened my mouth to eat the bacon. Then, he took a tissue to wipe off the sauce from the corner of my mouth before saying, "Everyone loves in a different way. You can't generalize things."

But even so, would someone behave completely indifferent to the woman they liked? In Chris' eyes, the pieces of meat on his plate might be more attractive

than Zara.

I was about to suggest Chris cook something for Zara when Jade subtly shook her head at me, so I kept quiet.



Beneath Zara's calm demeanor, there was an undeniable sense of disappointment.

I couldn't understand why the passionate Zara would be so fixated on such a cold boyfriend. She deserved someone better, someone who would cherish her.

From Chris' behavior, I couldn't see his liking or attention toward Zara at all.

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The one who loved more suffered more. This was a fact.

Zara loved him more, so she had to suffer.

It was like me at 18. I suffered a lot because of my love for Felix.

It seemed my best friend, Zara, would walk down the same path.

That was something I didn't want to see.

Because my mind was preoccupied, I became absent-minded. Even the meat didn't taste good in my mouth.

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As I was brooding over the matter, someone suddenly appeared and stood by our

table.

Everyone, except for Chris, was stunned.

When I saw the person's face, I couldn't catch my breath and ended up choking. I started coughing badly.

Why couldn't I even have a peaceful meal? He came uninvited. How shameless could he get?

Colin tightened his grip on my hand under the table suddenly, the frustration on his face evident.

"Felix? Well, what a coincidence meeting you here. If I wasn't aware of your usual aloof demeanor, I'd think you had followed Colin here." Zara was quick with her words and did not spare his pride. She made Chris, who was concentrating on his food, give her a few strange looks.

Felix's appearance successfully diverted Chris' attention from the food to Zara.

With such obvious sarcasm, I couldn't believe Felix couldn't hear it. She might as well have accused him of being a stalker.

Yet, Felix calmly replied as if he hadn't heard anything, "What a coincidence, indeed. I was just passing by and saw you guys here. Since I'm a bit hungry too, I came in. But I came uninvited, so I hope I'm not spoiling your mood.

I glanced at the dark road outside the window, feeling speechless.

There were so many restaurants around. Why would he come here? The excuse wasn't even convincing.

I wanted to say that he had indeed spoiled our mood because seeing his face made me lose my appetite. I wanted to tell him to leave and not to ruin our meal.

But since he didn't say he came for me, acting too aggressively would seem deliberate. So, I decided to ignore him.

you?"

Felix's gaze flickered for a moment, as if he wanted to get angry. However, he restrained himself. Then, he raised his hand to call the waiter for another set of tableware and sat directly on my left.

His composure made everyone look at him in surprise.

As soon as he sat down, a familiar scent hit me. I couldn't help but feel dizzy.

It was the scent of the shampoo Felix often used in high school. It was the one we picked together at the supermarket. Back then, he didn't like to use it as he found the scent too strong. After Thanksgiving in our senior year, I never smelled this on him again.

Today, he appeared suddenly after using this shampoo. He even deliberately sat

next to me.

There was a time when just smelling this scent made me very happy.

But now that the years had gone by, besides feeling nostalgic, I felt nothing else.

But why was he doing this?

The past was the past. We could never return to it. Felix White, please have some dignity!

Perhaps it was my momentary daze, but Felix turned toward me and smiled lightly. "Do you still remember it? I searched many places for it. This sweet lemon scent is just like you."

Damn it.

What did he mean?

With a wry smile, I replied, "Should I remember it? By the way, I don't like lemon. I prefer grapefruit. It's juicy and has a slightly bitter taste with some sweetness, just like Colin."

Felix's hand, which was about to pick up some meat, paused. The muscles on his cheeks tightened, and I could vaguely see him grinding his teeth.

+16 BONUS

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I thought he would leave tactfully with such a direct statement. But he was so shameless. He just stiffened for a few seconds before resuming his actions. naturally. It was as if he hadn't heard anything as he picked up the beef and put it on the grill.

After putting down the tongs, he even naturally reached out to touch my hair.

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Colin swiftly extended his arm to protect my head, so Felix's hand landed on Colin's arm. His expression turned dark immediately.

Zara couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Even Chris' eyes had a hint of amusement in them.

Felix shook his head again dismissively as he said with a small laugh, "You little rascal."

His doting tone gave me goosebumps all over.

I had known him for 20 years. Even during his sweetest time with Lilac, he never spoke to her in such a tone.

Would someone change so much after being beaten once? Shawn must have beaten him too hard.

Feeling uncomfortable, I shifted slightly toward Colin. He was already very close to me since he was cooking for me, but with my movement, I ended up in his embrace.

When I realized I was too close and tried to move away a little, it was too late. Colin raised an eyebrow as he deepened his smile and pulled me closer.

Felix paused for a moment before smiling suddenly and lifting his head to speak to me. "Lulu, Aunt Harper said you haven't packed your luggage. She wants you to go home soon."

I almost burst out laughing at this. Jade and Zara both looked disgusted. Even Drew became speechless.

How could Mom tell him about my luggage when she knew I was out with Colin, especially since she also didn't like Felix as much now?

Felix couldn't even come up with a proper lie. It seemed that this was his limit.

However, I was angry at him for provoking Colin's dignity in front of my friends.

The anger I had been suppressing erupted suddenly. I spouted, "Why do you care

\*BONUS

If I go lack early or late? What has it got to do with you? Are you just bored out of your mind?"

Jade slammed her fork on the table, expressing her support. "I'm not eating anymore. I've lost my appetite."

Colin said calmly, "Fells, when we came out, I already assured Aunt Harper that I would safely escort Lulu home. If she specifically asked you to come, I'll call her now to clarify"

Felix's face fell. Hearing us speak so ruthlessly, his eyes darkened. His hand resting on the table had clenched into a fist. This was his unhappy expression. He lowered his head and remained silent.

After a while, just when we thought he would storm out, he lifted his head again. Ignoring Colin's words, he smiled gently and said, "Alright, Lulu. Don't get angry. Hurry up and finish your meal. Don't let Aunt Harper wait for too long."

"I have Colin taking care of me, so you don't have to worry. If you have nothing else to do, you should leave. Just let us enjoy our barbecue and chat, okay?"

"Okay, you guys enjoy your meal. I'll just sit here for a while. It's a bit far from my house, and it's hard to get a cab, so I'll just go back with Colin."

We were speechless.

During that meal, Felix endured everyone's disdainful glances and stayed until

we were done.

When we got to the car, he quickly took the front passenger seat with the advantage of his height and locked the car door directly after settling in.

I was dressed in light clothing and had gotten sweaty during the barbecue just now. So, standing outside the car in the chilly winter made me shiver instantly. The cold breeze easily penetrated my clothes, causing me to hug myself

involuntarily.

"Felix, that's my seat. Go to the back." I stood on the side of the front passenger door, angrily confronting Felix and refusing to go to the back seat.

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Colin's face turned cold. He told Felix to move to the back seat if he wanted to ride

with us.

Felix ignored him and started watching videos on his phone.

It made me so mad I wished I could kick him to death.

Even Drew couldn't stand it anymore and knocked on the car window to tell him.

to be a man.



But we underestimated Felix's shamelessness. He continued to sit there and stare at his phone like he couldn't care less. It was as if he was saying, "I'm not getting

off. What are you going to do about it?"

"Felix, stop being so shameless and get away from us!" I was so angry that I could explode.

Now, I suddenly understood his feelings back then. That Thanksgiving, when he accused me of being shameless, I was upset for a long time. I didn't understand his feelings. I just wanted to be with him, so why was he so angry?

Now, I finally understood. Being pursued by someone you didn't like and being unable to shake them off was a really awful feeling.

Back then, I followed him around, and now, he was following me. He was now the one being shameless, so I had repaid him for what he made me endure back then. In the future, I wouldn't use the word 'shameless' anymore.

Colin chuckled and looked at Felix seriously for a full minute before he turned and got out of the car. He took me with him. "Lulu, let's take a taxi."

"Okay," I exclaimed excitedly. I grabbed his arm as we headed to the roadside.

"I heard there are many vintage cars that have been turned into taxis. I've never ridden in one before, so today's the perfect chance to try."

"Sure, we'll try to get a vintage car.

"You don't have to call for a taxi. Hop on. We'll go together." Drew happened to

drive up to us and called out.

We got into his car immediately, leaving Felix behind.

Before going to bed that night, I called Colin again, and inevitably, Felix came up in the conversation. Colin stifled a laugh and said Felix drove the car back by himself. He didn't say a word when he got back. He just went straight to his room with a sullen expression and didn't step out of his room again.

I rolled around laughing on my bed.

It served him right for messing around for no reason.

What went around came around.

Two days quickly passed, and Colin came to pick me up to fly back to school together.

Unsurprisingly, Felix came along with Colin. He took the same flight too.

I didn't care about it. It was not like it was our private jet. As long as Colin was with me, Felix wouldn't dare to do anything.

The airport terminal was crowded with returning college students. There were youthful smiles everywhere, making it a pleasant sight.

Colin and I sat together while Felix was behind Colin.

We had to wait for a while before we could board the plane, so we chatted quietly

together.

“Colin, I’m a little worried,”

“About what?”

“The school is quite big, and chance encounters happen frequently. What if Felix accidentally meets Lilac someday? How will he react?”

Colin pinched my cheek, looked around, and then planted a kiss on my cheek before lowering his voice.  
“That day will come sooner or later. I don’t know how

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he’ll react. What I want to know is, what should I do if you bump into Matthew when I’m not around?”

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That question was a bit tricky, so I dared not answer it casually, Colin had always been like this, using his intelligence to easily expose my foolishness.

Darn it, I was digging my own grave. I brought this upon myself.

“Well, it’d be a coincidence, so I’ll just let it be. Are you afraid he’ll steal me away, Colin? You’re lacking confidence. This is so unlike you. You’re one of the best from Lincoln University. You shouldn’t be like this.

“Hmm, there must be many other guys eyeing a rising star in the world of art like me. If you don’t buck up and boost your confidence, our future seems bleak.”

I pretended to worry and held my chin in my hands. Colin was both amused and angry as he wrapped me in his coat and vigorously messed up my smooth locks.

After struggling to escape from Colin's clutches and finally breathing the fresh air, I heard a snort from behind. It was Felix. I rolled my eyes while Colin frowned. After a brief exchange of glances, we collectively pretended not to hear

him.

We couldn't even freely enjoy our intimate interactions. It was annoying and irritating.

After getting off the plane, the three of us took a taxi back to school.

Just as we arrived at the school gate, my worst fear came true.

Taxis weren't allowed to go into the campus, so we had to get down at the gate.

It was the day students were returning to campus, so there were many people around with their luggage. Most people were wearing hats because of the cold weather. It was easy to overlook even people with familiar faces.

As we got out of the taxi, I waited for Colin to retrieve our luggage. Just then, I saw Shawn passing by on the other side of our taxi, carrying a bright pink suitcase and holding Lilac's hand.

He was handsome, and she was delicate. They made a very pleasant sight if their identities were ignored.

Lilac probably hadn't expected this turn of events. When she realized Felix was standing next to her, she stopped in her tracks. Her expression changed rapidly, looking as if she had seen a ghost. She looked hideous.

Shawn also spotted us. Felix and he were standing on either side of Lilac, silently locking eyes in a standoff.

One was sinister and terrifying, the other was indifferent and ruthless.

Lilac, the central figure in this encounter, didn't dare to raise her head to look at Felix. She trembled and shrank into Shawn's arms, displaying the same

vulnerable appearance as before.

Back then, whenever Lilac encountered any trouble, she would hide behind Felix and he would brave any danger to protect her. The woman he had protected for so many years had played him for a fool. She was now seeking refuge in the arms of her childhood sweetheart.

I wondered what Felix felt when he saw this. If it were me, I would have exploded

in anger.

A betrayal would always be a betrayal regardless of the excuses and reasons. It was unforgivable.

Colin and I had planned to take our luggage and leave, but Shawn showed up. We were worried about Felix and decided to stay and wait for him.

If Colin and I had to choose sides, we would definitely stand by Felix.

The silent standoff lasted for a good two minutes. Shawn and Felix were staring daggers at each other.

It wasn't until Lilac felt weak in the knees and was about to fall that Shawn took

her and left.

The sight of them holding each other was downright arrogant.

Felix was still staring in their direction even after they had walked far ahead. He narrowed his eyes, and the air around him turned gloomy.

Once again, I couldn't understand what Felix was thinking.

"Let's go in." Colin broke the silence,

Feliz grunted, retracting his gaze and quickly walking away with his luggage. He soon disappeared into the crowd,

"Colin, Felix is a little scary. Do you think he'll do something stupid?"

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"It's okay. He's an adult. He knows what he should and shouldn't do," Colin

reassured me.

I fervently prayed in my heart with my hands clasped together.

The supervisor of our dorm was in a good mood. Seeing my huge luggage, she surprisingly agreed to let Colin escort me upstairs.

My apartment unit was on the third floor. The door was open, indicating that

Helen had returned.

"Helen! You're back early..." I bounced to the door, but before my words could reach her, I had to forcibly swallow them back. I turned around to look at Colin with a silly grin.

Both of us had a knack for jinxing things.

I was worried about what would happen if Lilac and Felix bumped into each

other, and they actually did in front of the school gate.

Colin had been worried about what would happen if I bumped into Matthew, and

he was actually in my apartment.

What kind of drama was this? It was torturing.

Matthew was bending down to pick up the suitcase and put it on the cabinet above when he heard my voice. He froze for a moment, almost letting go

of the

suitcase.

Helen reached out to help, preventing Matthew from being hit by the falling suitcase. If it had fallen on him from that height, he would have been injured for

sure.

Matthew stared at me intently, his face showing unabashed longing and sorrow. – It left me at a loss for words.

I never expected to meet him like this. I wasn't mentally prepared!

Helen noticed the change in Matthew. Sadness welled up in her clear eyes as she

smiled at me with a hint of bitterness. "You're not too late yourself."

I scratched my head and forced a smile. It was too awkward.

Helen liked Matthew, Matthew liked me, and I liked Colin. Colin was the only winner in this love story.

"What are you standing by the door for? Go in," Colin said in a deep voice.

Matthew hesitated for a moment and asked, "Is this Felix's brother?"

The situation was a mess, and decisions had to be made quickly.

There was no way to avoid or hide our relationship. So, I confidently took Colin's hand and walked in.  
"Yes, and he's also my boyfriend."

The light in Matthew's eyes dimmed slightly, and his tall figure trembled slightly. He awkwardly greeted us before turning to tidy up Helen's bedding. His

movements were nervous and disordered.

I... had hurt this man who had loved me for many years.

The fact that I had a boyfriend would eventually become common knowledge. I hadn't expected to meet like this, but it was also unavoidable.

It was just that it was never my intention to hurt him.



It had always been my principle not to give anyone false hope if I couldn't return their feelings. My methods might be too direct and harsh, but they allowed people

to heal faster.

"Colin, let me introduce you. You know Matthew, so I won't say much. This is my roommate, Helen Johnston. Helen, this is my boyfriend, Colin White."

Helen suddenly realized and pointed at Colin. She said in a somewhat complaining manner, "Lulu, is this the handsome guy you video call every day? When did he become your boyfriend? Why didn't you tell me? I treat you as my

best friend."

"Well, I was going to tell you. But during that time, a lot of things happened, and things got messy. I ended up forgetting about it. How about this? Let me take you to dinner as an apology, alright?"

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Matthew's movements stiffened for a moment. He turned and sat down on the chair before smilingly saying, "There's no need to apologize. Let's just have dinner together. My treat."

"Allow me. I'll help Lulu unpack while you two ladies can decide what to eat. We'll go right after we're done unpacking the things."

After that, Matthew and Colin went out for a smoke.

Grinning, I leaned over to Helen while pointing outside. "Helen, things are moving pretty fast for you, huh? He's even here to help you move your things."

“He was forced by his mother.”

“Who cares? He came despite that, right? You just need to get along well with Matthew’s mother. I can see that he’s a good son who’ll listen to his parents. His mother really likes you. With her support, you’ll definitely be able to marry him.”

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“I’ll just let things develop naturally and try my best without leaving any regrets. Enough about me. That handsome guy of yours looks refined and powerful. He definitely has a bright future ahead.”

‘Wow, Ms. Johnston, I haven’t met you for two months and you’ve already switched careers? Tell me, when will I become successful and rich?\*\*\*

“Stop fooling around.”

Colin called, asking us to go out and meet them at the stairwell.

When Helen and I approached, Colin and Matthew had already put out their cigarettes and were talking to each other.

Matthew had gained a little weight compared to when he was in the hospital, but he was still very thin. Looking at him from behind, it was obvious that his clothes were propped up at the shoulder blades.

Colin stood shoulder to shoulder with him, though he was slightly taller than Matthew. His tall and straight posture made him look like a pine tree standing

tall in the wilderness.

Matthew was outstanding enough, but in my eyes, Colin was even better.

H

“Will you always treat her well?”

“Of course. She’s my treasure.”

“Colin, you’re more reliable than Felix. I feel... reassured handing her over to you.

“She’s not an object to be handed over by you. Whether you trust me or not has nothing to do with me. I’m willing to do anything for her, but that’s only because

it’s her.”

Matthew clenched his fists, remaining silent for a long time.

I turned to look at Helen. Her head was lowered, her smile forced and.

melancholic. Yet, she still straightened her back.

She was pretending to be strong, making my heart ache for her

She was such a good woman. Matthew was a good man too. But one seemed to hurt them. It felt ironic.

“Helen, don’t be sad. Things will get better in the futu

She chuckled sarcastically. Then, she looked up at me with eyes full of self- deprecation. “Lulu, look how pitiful I am. I’m heartbroken, but my love rival is comforting me. You’re so fortunate to always have someone pampering you.”

She grabbed my scarf to wipe her eyes, angering me. “It’ll be disgusting if you smear your snot on it.”

Our voices were not low, and it alerted the two outstanding men who walked over

together

Colin held my hand while Helen hooked Matthew's arm.

He stiffened for a moment, looking as if he wanted to pull his arm away. But he seemed to think of something and held back, letting Helen hold onto him

obediently.

Helen looked at me with a surprised look, as if she had gained a great advantage. She was ecstatic all the way, constantly chatting with Matthew. He had a faint smile on his lips as he occasionally hummed in response.

To me, those hums sounded light and perfunctory; but to Helen, they were as satisfying as a child eating candy. It made her glow with joy.

Somehow, I woke up with a sore throat the next morning. I felt dizzy and weak. It seemed that I caught a cold.

This came without a warning.

Colin video-called me, and seeing my haggard appearance, he turned pale. Somehow, he boldly entered the female dorm again and came to my room.

"Mr. White, please come in. Lulu was groaning all night long. I thought she ate too much and was feeling bloated. I just realized she has a fever this morning."

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I was so irritated that I wanted to bite someone. What kind of nonsense was she talking about? Did her family members groan all night because of eating too much? She was definitely retaliating against me. It was deliberate.

If I wasn't so weak from being sick, I would've beaten her up on the bed.

Helen opened the door for Colin, who hummed faintly in response. He then came straight to me with two large bags.

He put the things on the desk and reached out to touch my forehead. His voice was hoarse with worry when he said, "You're burning up, baby. Get up. I'll take you to the hospital."

I had always been healthy since I was young, and I wouldn't even catch a cold in a year. The few times I had been to the hospital were either due to natural disasters or man-made injuries. They had nothing to do with my own health.

Chapter 330

This cold came out of nowhere. I had a stuffy nose, dry eyes, and a scratchy throat. It was so uncomfortable.

"I don't want to go." I weakly refused, barely opening my eyes.

I had always hated going to the hospital. The smell of disinfectant was like a nightmare to me. So, in order to avoid going to the hospital, I tried not to fall sick.

But in recent years, I had been to the hospital too many times. And it was serious each time. That feeling of panic was unforgettable. Even now, just the thought of hospitals would make me squirm. So, I firmly resisted.

Colin took my sweater while coaxing me to get dressed and get up. But I just rolled over and pulled the covers over myself, refusing to listen to him.

“Baby, when you’re sick, you have to go to the hospital. If you get pneumonia, you’ll have to be hospitalized. Come on, get up quickly,” Colin urged.

But no matter how he coaxed me, I refused to listen. He was so anxious that his eyes were turning red, and Helen was so angry that she could have picked me up

with one hand.

I was betting on Colin’s concern for me to stop forcing me.

Fortunately, I won in the end. Colin had to wrap me up like a dumpling and put me at the head of the bed. He carefully checked the medicines he brought, picked them out, and put them in my hand. Then he brought me warm water and

watched me frown as I swallowed a handful of pills.

My stubbornness infuriated Helen, who gritted her teeth in anger. If it weren’t

for Colin, she might have torn me apart.

But I didn’t care how angry she was. After swallowing the pills, I gave her a pale look of victory. It once again infuriated her.

While she was downstairs to fetch the breakfast ordered by Colin, I was leaning softly against him with a fever patch on my forehead. I was all wrapped up like a

cocoon, which amused Helen when she came back.

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“It’s just a cold. Why are you acting so weak? So what if you have a boyfriend who spoils you? Who are you trying to impress by showing off so early in the morning? Alright, I can’t watch it anymore. I’m leaving.”

She put the breakfast on the table, picked up her bag, and left.

Actually, I knew she was sad.

She spoke disdainfully just now, but her eyes were full of envy.

Being cherished by the person one loves should be the happiest thing for every

woman.

Once, after Helen and Matthew quarreled, she mentioned this to me as I was comforting her. She said, “Luna, do you know how much I envy the way your boyfriend looks at you, with affection and love? If Matthew could treat me half as well as Colin treats you, I’d be the happiest woman in the world.

“I’m not expecting him to love me like your boyfriend loves you. But just a little reciprocation from him would be enough for me.

“Even if he just pours me a cup of water when I need it or passes me a tissue when I’m sad, I’d be so touched. But there’s nothing. It’s like he’s been frozen in ice. No matter how hard I try, I can’t warm him up.”

At that time, I could only sigh and marvel at how love could totally transform a

person.

Someone proud like Helen, who had a good family background and was pretty and talented, fell for someone who didn't like her. She humbled herself because

of love.

And someone like me, who had once followed Felix every day just because of t vague feeling that I couldn't figure out, turned into a pest. I even let him publicly

insult me.

And someone like Lilac, who was obsessed with Felix yet was unable to let go of her childhood sweetheart, got herself entangled with Shawn. Although she said it was because Felix couldn't forget about me, everyone knew that it was just an excuse she made for herself.